

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend Paragraph [0025] as follows:

"[0025] In one configuration, each application server [[110]] 115 can be segmented into several distinct layers or tiers. Within such a multilayered application server, the responsibilities of the application server [[110]] 115 can be divided into functionally distinct areas. Each functionally distinct area can be implemented as a different software component. A distinct area of the server can be implemented as a software object using any of a variety of object oriented programming languages and/or development tools. Segmentation of the application server [[110]] 115 can facilitate autonomic operations within the application server [[110]] 115, as each functional segment need only handle a definable portion of autonomic server behavior. That is, functional segmentation can allow the application server [[110]] 115 to be treated in a modular fashion and not in a monolithic one, thereby compartmentalizing the complexities within the application server [[110]] 115 to facilitate software design."

Please amend Paragraph [0031] as follows:

"[0031] In operation, a client 140 can convey a client request, such as [[an]] a HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) request, across a network to the proxy server 145. The proxy server 145 can route the client request to the appropriate application server 115. The application server 115 can additionally receive at least one component status publication 155 from the status hub 135. The application server 115 can then selectively utilize at least one application component 110 when generating a server response to the client request. The application components 110 selected by the application server 115 can depend upon which application components 110 are available as determined from the

component status publications 155."

Please amend Paragraph [0041] as follows:

"[0041] Local components [[240]] 235 can be application components local to the application server configured to perform computing services in a fashion similar to the external components [[235]] 240 listed above. That is, local components [[240]] 235 can be redundant to and functionally equivalent with external components 240. Often, however, local components [[240]] 235 will often be less robust than their external component [[235]] 240 counterparts, so that the external component [[235]] 240 can be preferred over the local component [[235]] 240.

Please amend Paragraph [0042] as follows:

"[0042] For example, a local speech recognition component can have a recognition accuracy less than an external speech recognition component since the external speech recognition component can have a larger speech grammar and perform more complex functions than the local speech recognition component. In another example, a local and an external text-to-speech component can each utilize different text-to-speech models, with the local text-to-speech component focusing on resource efficiency and the external text-to-speech component focusing on the most human-sounding results. Thus, the local text-to-speech component can utilize a formant approach and the external text-to-speech component can utilize a concatenative approach. In yet another example, a local cache memory for content containing previously acquired external content can be a local component [[240]] 235 and the external content source can be the corresponding external component [[235]] 240. In still another example, a local database table can contain a

local copy, periodically updated, of an external database table. Similarly, the local database table can be a cache memory for content received from the external database. Thus, the external database table will contain more updated records than the local database table, but the local database table will not consume external resources.

Please amend paragraph [0045] as follows:

"[0045] The interface layer 225 can perform document formatting and presentation tasks for the application server. The interface layer 225 can dynamically generate electronic documents using included data methods 230 and associated application components. The interface layer 225 layer can also incorporate data resulting from the application layer 220 into electronic documents as directed by the control layer 205. For example, if the application server is a Web server, the interface layer 225 can control the content and appearance of a dynamically generated Web page using technologies such as Java Server Page (JSP) technology, Active Server Page (ASP), and the like. In another example, the interface layer 225 can utilize a multitude of electronic document templates, such as ~~Hypertext Markup Language (HTML)~~ HTML templates, to generate suitably formatted electronic documents. While the interface layer 225 can contain document formatting logic, the interface layer 225 and components and methods therein generally contain limited process control capabilities since the process control for the application server is generally performed within the control layer 205."

Please amend paragraph [0058] as follows:

"[0058] For example, if two substantially identical data base management systems (DBMS's) exist, one of which is overloaded, the other under loaded, then the application

server can select the under loaded DBMS to generate a server response. If a total cost value is used by the application server, the under load DBMS will have a lower total cost value than the overloaded DBMS. In another example, a server response can require a speech recognition (SRS) component, a directory look-up (LDAP) component, and a DBMS component. Multiple ones of each application component can be available, including both local and external components. A total cost value can be computed for each required component, and one component of each type can be selected. For instance, a local SRS component, an external LDAP component, and an local DBMS component can be utilized to generate a particular server response."